

The Dispatch of the Company of Military Historians

Dues due

As some of you who did not pay their dues quite on time have experienced, COMPANY Governors have been calling up and sending e-mails about that. As it stands at the time of writing, the drop in membership will not be as severe as anticipated. This, considering the economic times we are presently experiencing, not only in North America and Europe, but all over the world, is a relatively predictable development.

Nevertheless, because of decreasing revenue, this will likely have a negative effect on some of our activities, and notably on the COMPANY journal, the *Military Collector & Historian*. It had lately increased 48 to 72 pages, and sometimes even more pages, with many color pages and covers. It is likely to have less colors and less pages in the future, for obvious, revenue-based, reasons. With or without color, the Journal remains the prime source of quality studies on military material culture published in the English language, as you well know, and that continues, no matter what!

2009 MUIAs Published!

As for the Military Uniforms in America (MUIA) series of color plates, that carries on just fine and there are no plans to reduce the present number of twelve plates published yearly. Indeed, subscribers received their 2009 plates on a variety of important and carefully researched subjects. They are:

- 857 - Agenais French Regiment, drummer, 1776-1779, by Eugène Lelièpvre;
- 858 - 3rd New Jersey Regiment Light Company, 1777, by Peter Culos;
- 859 - 71st Highlanders, Buenos Aires, 1806, by Robert Marrion;
- 860 - United States Marines, Full and Walking out dress, 1859-1875, by Ron Field;
- 861 - Pathfinders, 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions, Normandy, 1944, by John C Andrews;
- 862 - 1st Continental Georgia Battalion, 1776-1778, by Peter Copeland;
- 863 - Sailors of the Imperial German Navy, 1914, by Robert Marrion;
- 864 - British 19th Light Dragoons, 1813-1816, by Robert Marrion;
- 865 - Canadian Units in the War of 1812 (3), by Eric Manders;
- 866 - Napoleon's Colonial Battalions, c. 1807-1810, by Keith Rocco;
- 867 - The Guadeloupe, Martinique, Du Cap, and Port-au-Prince French Colonial Regiments, 1772-1786, from contemporary watercolors;
- 868 - United States Army Air Corps, 1939-45, by H. Charles McBarron.

Any of these plates, which come with a fully document text, may be ordered individually from the Administrator.

HISTORICON

The COMPANY will have a table at HISTORICON, the largest war games convention anywhere, which will be held on July 16-19 at the Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center, Lancaster, PA USA. For details, go to: <http://www.historicon.org> Your

Dispatch's interim editor will be there too, giving a series of three illustrated lectures on the three French invasions of Portugal from 1807 to 1810, and their repulse by British and Portuguese troops under Lord Wellington

Any news from your quarter? Let the editor know.

The Uniform Documents

Some things, found in the archives or memoirs, for your files and, who knows, of use for a future article or MUIA plate:

Independent Artillery Company of New London, Connecticut, 8 March 1762

Coat — Dark Blue Broad Cloth, with yellow metal Buttons, Buff Cuffs and Lapells.

Jacket [waistcoat] — Buff.

Breeches — Blue

Stockings — White

Cockade — Black

Hair Dressed with a wig or queue.

(Abstract from the: Order of 8 March 1762, Orderly Book, New London Historical Society, Document: M.N.D. 318)

Barnet (Vermont) Scottish Company, 1830s

There was an independent company here in Barnet called the "Scottish Grays"... The men were uniformed in home-made gray, and had rifles "which would carry clear across Harvey's Lake." This company had quite a reputation in its day and at the time of the boundary troubles between Maine and New Brunswick, known as the Aroostook War, it was notified to be ready for immediate service. But the trouble was settled before they were called to leave the state.

(From: Frederick Palmer Wells, *History of Barnet, Vermont* (Burlington: the Free Press, 1925) p. 103)

And a weapon too!

Surprise! Surprise!



It looks like an 18th century Colonial American or British halberd, it might even feels like it, but this halberd is in the Conde de Linhares Military Museum in...Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is a “Sargentina” — the nickname to the halberds carried by the sergeants of the regiments serving in Portuguese colonial Brazil.

To combat the cold in Halifax:

Statement of Wines expended by the 96th Regiment from the 1st January to the 31st December 1833.

	gallons	quarts
Port Wine	147	-
Madeira	70	-
Sherry	92	3
Claret	57	3
Champaign	50	3
Hock	18	2
Hermitage	10	3
	446	14 (3 gallons & 2 quarts)

Before concluding that everyone was tipsy on parade and in the mess, let us do some calculations. Say 449 British imperial gallons multiplied by 6 (an imperial gallon has six bottles conatining 75 centilitres each) = 2694 bottles divided by 20 officers = 134 bottles per officer, which comes to about two and a half bottles a week, making less than half a bottle a day.

(Public Archives of Nova Scotia, RG 22, Vol. 1. The 96th Regiment was stationed at Halifax)

Quotable Quotes

“A Soldier will fight long and hard for a piece of coloured ribbon.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

“This is a war of the unknown warriors; but let all strive without failing in faith or in duty, and the dark curse of Hitler will be lifted from our age.”

Winston Churchill, Broadcast on the BBC, July 14, 1940.

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt

And now, please see the Book Reviews below.

René Chartrand, Interim Editor

The Book Reviews:

George C Marshall: Rubrics of Leadership by Stewart W. Husted. U.S. Army War College Foundation. Stackpole Books, Order on line at PShaw@StackpoleBooks.com. 2006. Hardcover; 264 pp., b & w photos, notes, biblio. \$23.95 ISBN 978-0-9709682-3-4.

President Harry Truman declared that "George Marshall was the greatest general since Robert E. Lee ... and the greatest of the great of our time." Stewart Husted, who teaches courses in leadership, has written this book to highlight Marshall's leadership skills.

Truman compared Marshall to Lee, and there are a number of parallels in their life styles. Both took readily to military life as cadets, Lee at West Point and Marshall at VMI, and in their senior year both held the highest leadership post open to a cadet. Both achieved early success in their profession and did well when they entered combat. Despite their success, however, both were reserved. Marshall was upset when president Roosevelt once called him, "George," something that only his wife and stepson did. Lee never called any of his generals by their first names, except for Henry Heth who had been a childhood playmate of his sons.

In view of the focus on sports today, it is interesting to note that despite his slender build Marshall made the VMI football team and ended up as an All-Southern Conference Guard

He was frustrated in the first World War when his goal was to command an infantry regiment. Instead he was moved up to General Pershing's staff and handled the logistical planning for the Meuse-Argonne and other offenses. And after the war he spent the next five years as the chief aid-de-camp for Pershing.

Between the wars, Marshall's sense of duty led him to carry out assignments that took him away from coveted troop commands. For four years in the 1930's he was given such jobs as supervising CCC camps and advising the Illinois National Guard while his chief rival for the post of Army Chief of Staff, Hugh Drum, commanded the Hawaiian Department and later the First US Army. When his talents were finally recognized via his appointment to head the US Army, Marshall generated respect in the White House and trust on Capital Hill. Self disciplined with a strong

sense of what was and not appropriate, he turned down opportunities to receive 20 to 30 decorations from foreign countries during the war and later refused to sell history to Life magazine for one million dollars.

Marshall's leadership skills are clear and impressive. Husted has done a good job of highlighting and illustrating them.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

How the South Could Have Won the Civil War: The Fatal Errors That Led to the Confederate Defeat by Bevin Alexander. Crown Publishers, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. 2007, Hardcover; 337 pp. maps, notes, biblio. \$25.95. ISBN 978-0-307-54599-8.

President Jefferson Davis felt the Confederate armies should concentrate on defense and hope the Union forces got tired and gave up the fight. General Robert E. Lee wanted to take on and destroy the attacking federal armies while General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson wanted to skirt the invading federal forces and take the battle to the north, with southern troops menacing Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and maybe even New York. Jackson's approach was one of those seized upon by the author of this book as a possible key to an ultimate Confederate victory.,

Alexander also feels that the southern command should have ordered its troops to advance and capture Washington in the aftermath of the federal rout at the first Battle of Manassas. (This despite the fact that the Confederates were worn out by a tough fight and hardly organized as an army, with no commands higher than brigades.) The author is also critical of Lee's frequently bloody attacks which weakened his already outmanned forces. He felt Lee should have avoided attacking at Gettysburg and, instead waited for Meade to either attack him or vacate the site.

As another example of Lee's wasteful attacking strategy, the book cites the ill-fated attack on the Union lines at Fort Stedman, east of Petersburg, on March 25, 1865. This cost the Confederates 2,000 killed and wounded along with 3,000 prisoners for no gain whatsoever. This amounted to nearly a tenth of Lee's remaining army.

Nor were the Confederate errors limited to the eastern theater.. General Braxton Bragg made several bad decisions at the head of the western army. One was the failure to make a stand in Kentucky to keep federals under General Don Carlos Buell from occupying Louisville in September 1862 and another was the failure to stop the Union army at Chattanooga. The book is filled with what-might-have-been's admittedly easier to crank out on a word processor today than to have executed nearly 150 years ago. The author deserves credit for citing the backgrounds for the actions he criticizes and his notes on the text make especially interesting reading.

The Civil War was controversial from start to finish and that controversy remains today as witness this interesting book. One wonders how long speculation about the war, its activities, and outcomes will last.

Robert Calvert, Jr.

Retribution The Battle for Japan, 1944–45 by Max Hastings. Alfred A. Knopf, 1540 Park, Avenue, New York, NY 10036. 2007. Hardcover; 615 pp., maps, b & w photos. \$35.00. ISBN 978-0-307-26351-3.

A truly magnificent book from Britain's leading World War II historian, this covers the final year of the Pacific War, during which most of the area's major activities took place. The research is awe inspiring—the Marine attack on Iwo Jima; the British 14th. Army's campaign in Burma; and the fire bombing of Japan by U.S. B-29 airplanes are not simply presented from the standpoint of the commanders involved. Instead, the fighting is described in comments from common soldiers, sailors, and airmen on both sides of the conflict Equally thorough was his treatment of the lives of Allied service personnel in Japanese captivity.

The most effective leaders, in Hastings' view, were Adm. Chester Nimitz who planned the campaigns in the Central Pacific and Gen. William Slim, the former Indian Army officer who led the multinational force that drove the Japanese out of Burma. It is not hard to find critics of Douglas MacArthur these days and Hastings criticizes the South Pacific commander for his military strategy and public relations bent. Strategically, MacArthur was faulted for attacking isolated Japanese forces, which could just as easily been left to wither on the vine. And as for public relations, few of his subordinate commanders received much press attention American GIs were upset when victory would be pronounced while tough fighting was still going on. Only when the 65-year-old general begins to interact with the Japanese people, after their surrender, does Hastings praise his performance. Australian Gen. Thomas Blarney is faulted for mishandling his country's troops that had performed brilliantly in the North African desert campaigns but floundered under his leadership in the South Pacific.

The U.S. Navy is praised for its performance in battle, although individual admirals such as William "Bull": Halsey come in for tactical criticism. Hastings feels that the U.S. Navy, under the leadership of Adm. Ernest King built far more ships than it needed and had trouble finding enough sailors when a manpower pinch hit America in 1944–1945. The U.S. submarine force comes in for extended praise, at its peak 140 submarines were operating in the Pacific. Their success was due in part to the fact that, early on, sixty non-productive commanders were relieved of their duties when their patrols sunk few enemy ships.

The story of Gen. Curtis LeMay's B-29 command describes how much American crews initially hated these planes and their fifteen-hour round trips to bomb Japan. Morale picked up when it was noted their loss rate was less than two percent on a mission, far below that in Europe. Firebombing by the 20th Air Force killed an estimated one million Japanese and weakened the moral argument against use of atomic bombs.

The Pacific War involved mixed goals on the part of the Allied nations. Britain was anxious to protect India and drive the Japanese out of its possessions Burma and Malaya The French felt likewise about Indo-China. In China, Chang Kai-shek was far more interested in preserving his army to fight his communist rivals than to expend his troops resisting the Japanese. The United States wanted to remove the Japanese from the Philippines but was anxious to cut its political ties with the islands.

Overall, an epic book about an epic period in history.

Robert Calvert Jr.

His Hour Upon the Stage: The Story of a Civil War Horse Soldier and the Woman Who Fought to Save His Life by Mary Hennessy. Vantage Press, 419 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. 2007. Paperback. 332 pp. 1 map, b & w photo, biblio. \$13.95. ISBN 978-0-533-15673-3.

A fictionalized account of what happened to one of the author's ancestors during the Civil War. Henry Washington Sawyer was a boy who escaped the family farm in 1848, riding his horse from his home in Pennsylvania to Cape Island on the New Jersey shore. There he found steady work in the construction field and was equally successful in matrimony. At the advent of the Civil War, Sawyer was a successful builder with a wife and two children but he enlisted with the first volunteers.

His initial tour of duty was relatively uneventful, three months with the 25th. Pennsylvania Infantry. When his term expired he reenlisted for three years, beginning as a lieutenant with the 1st. New Jersey Cavalry. He was wounded and captured in June 1863 when the real drama of his life began.

The story begins when two officers wearing Yankee uniforms rode into the Union Fort Granger in Kentucky displaying a letter signed by the War Department saying they were on an inspection trip to visit the fort and survey its defenses. They spent the day walking inside the fort and later had dinner with its officers. It wasn't until they left that suspicions arose and the two were followed, captured and brought back. When it turned out they were actually Confederate officers disguised in Union uniforms they were seized as spies, tried, and put to death.

The hanging of these two officers led to a storm of protest in the South and the Confederate government decided to pick two Yankee officers, from among its prisoners, to be put to death in retaliation. As luck would have it, Henry Sawyer was one of two picked out in the lottery. Fortunately for him, the sentence was not carried out immediately. When his wife learned of the threat to his life, she went to Washington and called on President Lincoln. Lincoln was sympathetic and, after meeting with his military chief of staff Gen. Henry W. Halleck, notified the Confederacy that if the two Union officers were killed, the North would immediately hang its prisoner Gen. W. H. F. ("Rooney") Lee, who just happened to be the son of Robert E. Lee.

This act saved the lives of the two Northern officers and a few weeks later they were actually exchanged for General Lee, despite what he had been through, including weeks in a subhuman cell, Sawyer returned to his regiment as a major and served until the end of the war.

The book is well-written although much of it consists of conversations that likely never took place, such as among a group of soldiers discussing emancipation. The thing that makes it worth while is the detail on the threat to Captain Sawyer's life and the high-level actions that finally protected him.

Robert Calvert Jr.

Carlos Méndez Notari, *Héroes del Silencio: Los Veteranos de la Guerra del Pacífico*. Santiago, Chile: Centro de Estudios Bicentenario, 2004. 137 pages, 15 Photographs (Inquiries/Purchase Info: Centro de Estudios Bicentenario; Correo No. 30 Casill 189, Vitacura-Santiago, Chile; Website: //www.bicentenariochile.cl; E-mail: contacto@bicentenario.cl) Spanish Language.

The study of veterans after a war is a subject matter seldom tackled by military historians. Much has been done on the campaigns, tactics, the soldiers and their commanders, and the causes leading up to the conflict, but rarely are the after effects and those that bore the brunt of combat resulting in victory or defeat for their nations studied. In the last twenty years there has been a surge in interest on the veterans that fought in the American Civil War with emphasis on both the Confederate and Union veteran's organizations as well as their offshoots. In addition, there is also interest in other wars such as the German veterans (Der Stahlhelm, ODESSA) of the two world wars.

Col. Carlos Méndez of the Chilean Army is one such historian who places his focus on the Chilean veterans who fought against Peru and Bolivia during the War of the Pacific (1879-1883). His study of veteran's affairs since the war is jam-packed with well researched citeable references that sets a new standard in this area of Latin American military history. His work also focuses on the veteran's lives and the role they played in Chilean society in the postwar decades from a sociological standpoint.

There are numerous references dealing with the geographical origins of the veterans, average ages during the war, when pensions were established in later years, and rates of pay for officers and other ranks (both wartime and pension pay). The author also focuses on those veterans wounded and disfigured by war. Among some of the information provided is the number of artificial limbs distributed to these veterans and their allowances of basic needs.

This book opened a new insight of the War of the Pacific and Colonel Méndez's book is well recommended to any interested in Latin-American military history. I'm very proud to place this next to my growing collection of references relating to veterans organizations.

Alejandro de Quesada

"A Letter to My Father; Growing Up Filipina and American" by Helen Madamba Mossman. University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, OK. www.oupres.com Hardcover; 168 pages, \$24.95, ISBN 978-0-8061-3909-8.

This very personal account tells of the struggles of a twelve year old girl who spent World War II hiding in the jungles of the Philippines during the Japanese occupation of the islands. Ms. Mossman describes how her Filipino father was forced to leave his plantation on the island of Negros Oriental and fight the Japanese as an officer of the Philippines Constabulary and later an officer in the Philippines Army as a part of the United States Armed Forces Far East (USAFFE). Captain Madamba, was forced to move his American wife and two children into hiding in the jungles of the Negros Oriental Province while he fought the Japanese as a supply officer. The narrative is told through the eyes of an adolescent girl.

Mossman describes her observations of an idyllic life that was interrupted by the Japanese invasion. This is a lot for a child to deal with but the narrative becomes more complicated when she feels somehow abandoned by her

father who must go to war and leave her in the care of her mother, brother, and guerilla protectors. This feeling of separation continues after 1945 when the family moves to Oklahoma after the war. Mossman felt she did not belong. She rejected her Filipina roots and tried to fit into mainland American society. These issues seem to still be unresolved although this book, this letter to her father, attempts to come to grips belatedly with her biracial and multicultural heritage.

The book is written in a series of short chapters that gives a little girl's impressions of her upset life during the war. It works best as a firsthand account of what she saw and felt during the war. For instance, she discusses the sinking of the USS *Panay* in December of 1937 when she personally saw the Japanese planes attack from her beachfront playground. She also witnessed the Japanese Fleet sail through the Guimaras Strait of the Sulu Sea enroute to the Great Marianas Turkey Shoot that broke the back of Japanese Naval power. The people she met along the way are fleshed out and this part of the narrative works well.

The book's shortcomings tend to stem from one of its strengths as a first person narrative. Since the viewpoint of the book is largely through the eyes of a child the bigger picture is lacking. Children are narcissistic and their viewpoint is somewhat limited. Don't expect to see the overall view through this story but be prepared for the personal experiences of a first hand witness. This book adds depth to understanding how war affects people and children in particular.

George Wheeler

CMH Fellow

The Paraguayan War: Armies of the Nineteenth Century - The Americas by Terry Hooker. The Foundry, 24-34 St. Marks Street, Nottingham, NG3 1DE, England. 2008, Hardcover; 192 pp., 252 figures by Ian Heath, maps, photos, notes, biblio. \$59.95. ISBN 1-901543-15-3.

Although this book's title indicates the 1865-1870 Paraguayan War, also called the Triple Alliance War — the largest war fought in South America — that pitted Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay against Paraguay, the historical narrative actually starts at the beginning of the 19th century. This is necessary to understand the convoluted political events that led the contending powers to war. The war itself is covered in detail from pages 24 to 108. It was a bloody, hard fought struggle that resulted in a near genocide with about half of the population of Paraguay, probably half a million souls, perishing on the battlefields or from sickness. Allied casualties and deaths due to sickness may have been about 70 000, most of them Brazilian.

While there have been a number of books that relate the events of the war, the second part of Terry Hooker's work gives an extensive account of the organization and uniforms worn and weapons used by the armies fighting the war. Many flags are also covered. Like the historical narrative, the uniform section begins in the 1820s. It is very well illustrated by over 250 figures by Ian Heath, which are clear and give good detail, as well as a many photos and prints of the period. Similarly, the author also presents very valuable data on the organization of the armies involved in the war. This is certainly the most extensive account of these matters to be found in a English language book and represents both the unique contribution of this work as well as its real strength.

In conjunction with this book, COMPANY members will wish to see again their copies of the *Military Collector & Historian* for the year 2007. A series of articles on the armies and uniforms of the Paraguayan War was published with about a hundred illustrations in color.

René Chartrand